

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-14 Claims 1-4 stand rejected. Claims 5-14 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 is currently amended and claims 2-4 have been canceled.

The amendment to claim 1 does not introduce new matter into the application. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in claim 4 as originally filed, and in Example 5 of the specification. Entry is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1 and 2 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5).

The Drawings and the Specification have been amended to meet the Examiner's Objection. The caption text for each of Figure 1 (a)-(e) and Figure 2 (a)-(d) has been deleted in the Figures. The Brief Description of the Drawings Section is also currently amended to include descriptions for each of Figure 1 (a)-(e) and Figure 2 (a)-(d). Support for this amendment may be found at paragraph [0069] of the specification.

It is respectfully requested that this Objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claim 1 is currently amended, and clarifies the subject matter of the claim. It is respectfully requested that this rejection now be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

At page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully asserted that claim 1 as currently amended is fully enabled by the specification. The present claims now recite detecting a sugar chain using lectin selected from the groups consisting of kidney bean lectin and lentil lectin. It is confirmed by lectin blot method in Example 1 of the specification that RLE, which is pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell, has a sugar chain binding to kidney bean lectin (E4PHA).

In addition, it is shown in Example 2 that kidney bean lectin and lentil lectin (LCL) are effective to distinguish RLE cell from other cells. Therefore, the claims as currently amended are fully enabled by the specification.

In light of the current claim amendments and remarks set forth above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

At page 14 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Makino et al. (Gastroenterologia Japonica, Vol. 23, No. 6, pages 658-665, 1988). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as currently amended is not anticipated by the Makino reference. Makino fails to disclose or suggest kidney bean lectin and lentil lectin. All of the elements of claim 1 as currently amended are therefore not disclosed or suggested by Makino.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #32868

Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

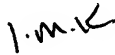
Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant



Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1 and 2)